



VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

Ministry of Welfare

REGULATION **on the education, rights and obligations of psychologists** **and criteria for granting of licences and specialist licences,** **No. 1130/2012.**

SECTION I

General provisions.

Article 1

Scope.

This Regulation applies to psychologists holding licences and specialist licences from the Medical Director of Health under Articles 2 and 5.

SECTION II

Licences.

Article 2

Professional title.

The right to use the professional title of psychologist and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those who have been granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

Article 3

Criteria for granting of a licence.

A licence under Article 2 may be granted to those who have completed an BSc degree in psychology from the Faculty of Psychology in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences, a BSc degree in psychology from the School of Business in the University of Reykjavik, or a BA degree from the University of Akureyri Faculty of Social Sciences, as well as two years of further studies (*Cand. Psych.* degree) from the Faculty of Psychology in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences. In addition to this the applicant having completed additional studies (*Cand. Psych.* degree), shall have completed twelve months of clinical training, under the guidance of a psychologist, at recognised institutions or premises of self-employed healthcare practitioner recognised by the Medical Director of Health.

A licence may also be granted on the basis of education from a state within the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. Recognition of professional qualifications and competence of a psychologist who meets the criteria of Directive 2005/36/EC, on the recognition of professional qualifications, with subsequent amendments, is subject to Regulation on recognition of professional qualifications and competence of healthcare practitioners from other EEA states, No. 461/2011, or to Nordic Convention on a common Nordic labour market for certain health professionals and veterinarians, No. 36/1993 (*cf.* Amendment No. 6/2001).

A licence may also be granted to those who have completed a comparable qualification from an educational institution in a state outside the EEA or Switzerland, which is recognised as such by Icelandic health authorities and by health authorities in the state where the education took place.

Other criteria for the issue of a licence are subject to Article 12.

Article 4

Opinions.

Before a licence is granted under Article 2 on the basis of education outside Iceland under the third paragraph of Article 3, the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of the Faculty of Psychology in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences, with regard to whether the applicant fulfils the criteria for qualifications under the first paragraph of Article 3, for granting of a licence.

The Medical Director of Health may elicit opinions from other bodies, as deemed necessary.

SECTION III

Specialist licences in psychology.

Article 5

Specialist licences.

The right to use the title of specialist in a specialist field of psychology and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

Article 6

Criteria for specialist licences.

Specialist licences may be granted in clinical specialist fields of psychology. This is subject to the condition that the specialist training of the applicant is defined as being within the specialist field for which he/she applies for a specialist licence.

The relevant specialist field shall have a solid theoretical basis, and an equivalent shall exist in a recognised international forum.

A specialist clinical field refers to a field which involves direct interaction with patients/clients, as well as diagnosis and treatment.

In order to be entitled to receive a specialist licence under Article 5 a psychologist shall fulfil the following standards;

1. he/she shall be licensed as a psychologist in Iceland under Article 2; and
2. he/she shall have completed recognised formal specialist training after postgraduate studies (*Cand. Psych.*) under Article 3, a diploma (60 ETCS) or education equivalent to a diploma, master's or doctoral studies in a specialist field within psychology, from a recognised university or university institution; and
3. he/she shall have worked for the equivalent of at least three years full-time as a psychologist alongside or after his/her education under indent 2, under the guidance of a psychologist with a specialist licence or another healthcare practitioner with comparable knowledge within the specified specialist field. Any relevant professional experience during studies may be subtracted from that time. The work shall have taken place within the speciality for which the application for a specialist licence is made, and at institutions or premises of self-employed healthcare practitioner recognised by the Medical Director of Health. If the applicant has worked less than full-time, the duration of employment shall be proportionately longer; and
4. he/she shall have received at least 50 hours of professional guidance from a psychologist with a specialist licence or another healthcare practitioner with similar specialised knowledge in the relevant specialist field in the speciality.

Up to twelve months full-time may be subtracted if the person has been employed in the relevant speciality alongside doctoral studies.

A specialist licence may be granted to those who are certified as specialists or a specialist licence in a state where requirements for specialist training are similar, even if the educational arrangements differ from the fourth paragraph.

A specific field on which the person has focussed within the clinical specialist field may be specified.

Further criteria for the granting of a specialist licence are subject to Article 12.

Article 7

Application and opinions.

An application for a specialist licence in specialist fields of psychology, together with documents confirming professional qualifications, professional experience and competence, as well as other necessary documents, shall be submitted to the Medical Director of Health.

Before a specialist licence is granted under Article 5 the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of the Faculty of Psychology in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences, with regard to whether the applicant fulfils the criteria of Article 6.

The Medical Director of Health may appoint a special committee to evaluate and comment upon applications for specialist licences.

The Medical Director of Health may elicit opinions from other bodies, as deemed necessary.

SECTION IV

Rights and obligations.

Article 8

Professional standards and responsibility.

A psychologist shall show respect for the patient/client, and perform his/her tasks vigilantly and conscientiously and in accordance with the professional standards required of the profession at any time.

A psychologist must be aware of his/her duties and respect ethical rules of the profession, maintain his/her knowledge and professional skill, and master innovations in his/her field of work.

A psychologist shall be familiar with legislation and regulations applying to healthcare practitioners and healthcare services at each time as well as other legislation and government directives, as applicable.

A psychologist is responsible for the counselling, diagnosis, evaluation and treatment he/she provides.

A psychologist shall recognise his/her professional limitations, and seek assistance or refer the patient/client to another healthcare practitioner as necessary, for instance if he/she judges that he/she cannot provide the patient/client with appropriate service.

Article 9

Duty to inform and keeping of records.

The duty of a psychologist to provide information to a patient is subject to the provisions of the Patients' Rights Act, No. 74/1997.

The duty of a psychologist to provide information to the Medical Director of Health, *inter alia* with respect to monitoring and for the purpose of producing health reports, is subject to the provisions of the Medical Director of Health and Public Health Act.

A psychologist shall, as appropriate, enter medical records in accordance with the provisions of the Medical Records Act, and regulations issued on the basis of the Act.

Article 10

Assistants and trainees.

A psychologist is responsible for assistants and trainees working under his/her supervision having sufficient competence and knowledge, and receiving the necessary guidance and instructions, to carry out tasks which he/she allots to them.

Article 11

Confidentiality.

A psychologist shall maintain the utmost confidentiality regarding anything of which he/she becomes aware in his/her work about a client's health, condition, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment, and other personal information. This does not apply where other provisions are made by law, or where reasonable cause exists to breach confidentiality for reasons of urgent necessity.

A psychologist can be released from the obligation of confidentiality by the consent of a patient, or guardian if applicable.

The duty of confidentiality under this Article does not apply to cases in which the psychologist has a duty to report under other legal provisions. In such cases, the duty of the psychologist is to notify the relevant authority.

A psychologist's duty of confidentiality is also subject to the provisions of the Patients' Rights Act, the Medical Records Act and other legislation as applicable.

SECTION V Various provisions.

Article 12

Further criteria for granting of licences and specialist licences.

An applicant for a licence as a psychologist under Article 2 and a specialist licence in psychology under Article 5 who is from a state outside the EEA and Switzerland, with which Iceland has not made an agreement on recognition of professional qualifications and competence shall submit *inter alia* documentary evidence of nationality, content and duration of education, in addition to an examination certificate, a licence if the profession is an authorised profession in the applicant's state of origin, intended employment in Iceland, and any other documents and certificates deemed by the Medical Director of Health to be necessary for the issue of a licence and specialist licence.

Before an application for a licence and specialist licence is evaluated, as applicable, a certified copy must be submitted of an application for residence and work permits, together with a signed contract of employment.

A requirement may be made for knowledge of the Icelandic language and Icelandic healthcare legislation, and other legislation and government directives, as deemed necessary in the work of a psychologist, especially with regard to patients' safety and communication with patients.

Should it not have been demonstrated, in the judgement of the Medical Director of Health, that the applicant's qualification fulfils the criteria under the first paragraph of Article 3 and Article 6 of this Regulation, account being taken of professional experience, an applicant may be required to submit to a test of competence to demonstrate that he/she possesses the professional knowledge and competence required in a psychologist, and a psychologist holding a specialist licence. An appropriate educational institution shall organise this test in consultation with the Medical Director of Health.

A licence and specialist licence is issued when the applicant commences work in Iceland.

Article 13

Fees.

Fees for the issue of a licence and specialist licence are subject to Article 10 of the Treasury Supplementary Revenues Act, No. 88/1991.

Fees for all administration undertaken by the Medical Director of Health with regard to applications for licences and specialist licences, in addition to the fee under the first paragraph, and for tests of professional knowledge and competence, are subject to Regulation on fees for applications for healthcare practitioners' licences and specialist licences, No. 951/2012.

Article 14

General provisions.

The provisions of the Healthcare Practitioners Act, No. 34/2012, the Medical Director of Health and Public Health Act, No. 41/2007, the Medical Records Act, No. 55/2009, the Health Service Act, No. 40/2007, the Patients' Rights Act, No. 74/1997, and other legislation and government directives apply to psychologists as applicable.

Article 15

Entry into force.

This Regulation, issued on the basis of Articles 5, 8, 30 and 31 of the Healthcare Practitioners Act, No. 34/2012, takes effect on 1 January 2013. From that time Regulation on psychologists' specialist licences, No. 158/1990, with subsequent amendments, is abrogated.

Temporary provision.

The provisions of the second sentence of the first paragraph of Article 3 do not apply to those who have commenced postgraduate training (*Cand. Psych.* degree) before the autumn of 2013.

A psychologist who has, when this Regulation takes effect, already commenced specialist training under the terms of Regulation on psychologists' specialist licences, No. 158/1990, may arrange his/her studies in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation. Those who commence specialist training after this Regulation takes effect shall arrange their studies in accordance with the new Regulation.

Ministry of Welfare, 11 December 2012.

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*[This translation is published for information only.
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In case of a possible discrepancy, the original Icelandic text applies.]*